

Pertinax made the fatal mistake of trying to change too much too quickly. He curbed the excesses of the Praetorian Guard: a popular move, but hardly calculated to endear the emperor to the soldiers.

Pertinax publicly blamed the imperial freedmen for shortage of funds in the imperial treasury. These two items placed Pertinax in position of considerable danger.

Early  
Mar 193

A serious coup attempt failed. The Praetorian guard were behind the move; but this time their candidate was Quintus SOSIUS FALCO. The council the plot was betrayed & though FALCO was found innocent, several of the soldiers were executed.

193-7

Rival emperors after murder  
of Commodus (180-192 AD)

193-235 AD

Severan Dynasty

('Military Monarchy'):

Septimius Severus 193-211

Cassius 211-217

Elagabalus 218-222

Severus Alexander 222-235

Mar  
193

The death of Pertinax had in fact led three rival candidates to declare themselves, each in command of frontier armies. First was GAIUS PESCAENNIUS NIGER, gov. of Syria. He was proclaimed emperor by the four Syrian legions in the middle of Apr 193, and made Antioch his temporary capital.

Mar 193

Lucius Septimius Severus  
governor of Upper Pannonia on  
the middle Danube declared.

A ruthless and astute politician,  
he soon won the support of the  
entire Rhine/Danube Army,  
including no fewer than 16  
legions.

28 Mar 193

First candidate was TITUS FLAVIUS  
SULPICIANS, the father of Pertinax's wife  
& 2nd was MARCUS DIDIUS JULIANUS,  
a distinguished ex-consul and reputedly  
a man of considerable means.

The bidding went on for some time  
but eventually the soldiers' choice fell  
on DIDIUS JULIANUS. He not only bid  
the higher price, but also warned them that  
if they elected Sulpicians, they might expect

revenge at his hands for the  
murder of Portinax

28 Mar 193

Pertinax had cancelled his public engagements for the day & was at the palace.

A contingent of 300 soldiers rushed the gates. Neither the guards on duty nor the Palace officials sought to resist them. Pertinax was advised to flee but decided to stay & face his attackers. He tried to reason with them; but all in vain.

While he was speaking, one of the soldiers lunged forward and struck him shouting

1 The soldiers have sent you this sword. The other soldiers joined in, raining blows on the 66-year-old man until he was dead. He had ruled for only 87 days.

Beating Portius's head aloft on a pole, the soldiers responsible for his death hurried back to the praetorian camp and shut the gates, fearing horrid people of Rome would react.

2 Candidates presented themselves at the camp & proceeded to bid for the support of the soldiers

28 MARCH 193

Septimius Severus  
Pertinax was murdered  
on the Palatine at Rome by the Praetorian Guard  
Didius Julianus became emperor  
Niger, Albinus and Septimius Severus  
proclaimed rival emperors by  
their legions

28 Mar 193

Didius Julianus became emperor.

He had one daughter DIDIA CLARA  
with his wife MANLIA SCANTILLA

Pertinax and Didius Julianus  
emperors.

193-284

1912 Dates J-BK

Rome  
Emperors were appointed mainly  
by the soldiers.

193

1912 Dates J-BK  
done

Pertinax (thompson) was  
murdered by the praetorians.

193 AD

1912 Dates J-BK

Rome

DIDIUS JULIANUS was placed  
on the throne by the praetorians.